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REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been canceled. Claims 16-34 remain pending in the application.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's allowance of claims 20, 23-26, and 30.

Claims 16-19, 21-22, 27-29 and 31-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,751,720 to Uematsu et al. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The cited portions of Uematsu et al. only include description of identifying pointer sizes in a SDH/SONET transmission system for VC path management. Such portions include description of a technique that accounts for pointer size to properly process all types of paths, including VC-3 and VC-4. Applicants refer to col. 2, line 53 et seq. in Uematsu et al., where such paths may be mishandled in a conventional system when pointer size is not properly accounted for. Indeed, the cited portions of Uematsu et al. only include consideration for pointer size, and do not even mention identifying a frame size in which a pointer is contained. As such, Uematsu et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, only describe monitoring pointers for managing different types of VC paths by accounting for pointer size, and do not disclose the claimed feature of processing a pointer contained in a transmission frame to identify a frame size of the transmission frame that includes one or more channel data.

In other words, Uematsu et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, do not disclose,

“[a]n apparatus comprising:
a pointer processing section for processing a pointer
contained in a transmission frame including one or more channel
data; and
a frame identification section performing monitoring a
change in a pointer processing result of said pointer processing
section for each of the channel data to identify a frame size of said

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transmission frame based on a monitored pointer processing result," as recited in claim 16. (Emphasis added)

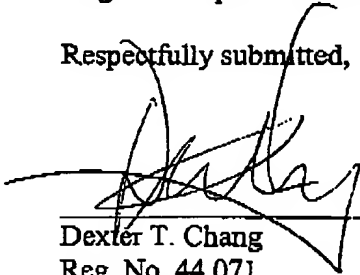
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 is patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the foregoing reasons. Claims 17-19, 21-22, 27-29, and 31-34 also incorporate features of processing pointers for attributes of transmission frames, which correspond to those of claim 16 cited above. Therefore, they are patentable over Uematsu et al. for at least the same reasons.

The above statements on the disclosures in the cited reference represent the present opinions of the undersigned attorney. The Examiner is respectfully requested to specifically indicate those portions of the reference that provide the basis for a view contrary to any of the above-stated opinions.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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